

REMARKS

Applicant has amended Claim 3. Claims 3, 5-6, 8, 10 and 12 are pending. A one month extension of time petition is included to allow a timely response in this matter by April 16, 2007 (April 14th is a Saturday and April 15th is a Sunday). No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 3, 6, 8, and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for anticipation by Zhu (U.S. 5,889,083) taken in view of the evidence given in Yatake (U.S. 5,560,770). Applicant has amended Claim 3 to change the transitional phrase “comprising” to “consisting essentially of,” thereby limiting the scope of the claim to the specified materials and steps and those that do not materially affect the basic and novel characteristics of the claimed invention. *See*, M.P.E.P. § 2111.03 and *In re Herz*, 537 F.2d 549, 551-52 (CCPA 1976). Zhu requires a wax in the inks and formulating with a dispersed wax has a number of disadvantages which materially affect the basic and novel characteristics of the claimed invention. Specifically, wax dispersions are difficult to formulate due to limited stability latitude, they increase the viscosity of the formulation, thereby reducing the applicability of some types of low cost, widely available print heads, and they decrease the reliability especially for drop on demand applications. In view of this amendment Applicant believes it has overcome the rejection and requests reconsideration.

Claims 3, 6, 8 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for anticipation by Patel et al. (U.S. 5,977,210) taken in view of the evidence given in Sasaki et al. (U.S. 4,248,636) and Satake et al. (U.S. 5,814,685). Applicant respectfully disagrees. In the prior response, Claim 3 was amended to place the surfactant element in a proper Markush format and clarify that the surfactant element is limited to anionic surfactants, nonionic surfactants or mixtures thereof, but excludes cationic surfactants. Additionally, Applicant has amended Claim 3 to change the transitional phrase “comprising” to “consisting essentially of,” thereby limiting the scope of the claim to the specified materials and steps and those that do not materially affect the basic and novel characteristics of the claimed invention. *See*, M.P.E.P. § 2111.03 and *In re Herz*, 537 F.2d 549, 551-52 (CCPA 1976). Applicant maintains, and case law confirms, that the phrase ‘consisting of’ appearing in a clause of a claim specifically limits the element set forth in that clause. *See*, *Mannesmann Demag Corp. v. Engineered Metal Prods. Co.*, 793 F.2d 1279, 1282 (Fed. Cir. 1986). Nevertheless, Claim 3 has been further amended and incorporation of a cationic surfactant, as required in Patel et al., would materially affect the basic and novel

characteristics of the claimed invention by causing aggregation of pigments and polymers, which is the goal of Patel et al.

Patel et al. teaches the aggregation of pigments and polymers requiring the use of cationic surfactants to accomplish agglomeration. (Column 3, line 26-36 and 46-47, and also Figure 1). Claim 3 covers the use of anionic or nonionic surfactants only. Moreover, Patel et al. fails to teach what, if any, water-soluble surface agents are needed to adhere to hydrophobic surfaces as opposed to other surfaces and what Tg levels to select for the aqueous emulsion polymer for the method of providing an image on a hydrophobic surface. The disclosure of sulfolane in Patel et al. is in a general wash list of liquid vehicle components, some of which would fail to act as a water-soluble surface agent as defined in the present invention. Patel et al. fails to disclose each and every element of the claimed invention, arranged as in the claim.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhu (U.S. 5,889,083) or Patel et al. (U.S. 5,977,210) either of which in view of Miyabayashi et al. (U.S. 2002/0107303).

For the reasons provided above, the disclosure of Zhu or Patel et al. differs from Applicant's invention by more than just the requirements of a specific type of substrate. Moreover, an obviousness rejection is improper where the proposed modification of the references would destroy the intended function of the references. In re Gordon, 733 F.2d 900 (Fed. Cir. 1984) (finding no suggestion to modify a prior art device where the modification would render the device inoperable for its intended purpose). Zhu requires a wax in the inks and formulating without a wax would destroy its intended function of providing an ink comprising a dispersed wax to achieve certain properties. Patel et al. requires the use of a cationic surfactant and the use of only an anionic surfactant, a nonionic surfactant or mixtures thereof, would destroy the function of agglomeration sought in Patel et al.

Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhu (U.S. 5,889,083) or Patel et al. (U.S. 5,977,210) either of which in view of Ma et al. (U.S. 5,085,698).

For the reasons provided above, the disclosure of Zhu or Patel et al. differs from Applicant's invention by more than just the requirements of a specific surface tension. Moreover, an obviousness rejection is improper where the proposed modification of the references would destroy the intended function of the references, as discussed above. Additionally, a specific range of surface tensions useful for providing images on a hydrophobic substrate is not obvious in view of a general disclosure that inks suitable for use with ink jet printers have a surface tension of about 20-70 dyne/cm.

Applicant maintains that such claims are patentable in view of the amendments and arguments presented above. Applicant's attorney thanks the Examiner for the time taken to review this response. In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the attorney listed below if there are any questions or comments.

Respectfully submitted,



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